

THE GARDEN OF MY HEART.

Ceremony in Three Parts for Honoring Past Officers.

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PART I - A short ceremony with which to seat Acting Officers on Past Matron and Past Patron Night.

When Present Officers have completed the business meeting, Past Officers retire, then enter the Chapter room, using the regular in-coming march - thus bringing each Past Officer to a station occupied by a present Officer.

All stand; the Soloist or all Officers sing:

Tune "In the Garden"

We wait in the Garden tonight
Just to welcome dear friends of yore.
All are tried and true, ever faithful, too,
Whose light will shine forever more.

Chorus While we walk with them and we talk with them,
May we scatter blooms on their way;
And the blossoms rare, flower always there,
To cheer them every day.

At the close of the song, beginning with the East, each Officer introduces her Acting Officer. When all have been introduced, the Worthy Matron speaks:

Dear Sisters and Brothers who are our honored guests tonight, God in His wisdom has so planned this universe, that there is always a seed time and a harvest. A few short years ago, the duties and the responsibilities of this Chapter were yours. That was your seed time. Carefully did you teach us to cultivate the virtues whose seeds you had sown: virtues which have grown and ripened in the light of the Eastern Star. This Chapter is a better Chapter because you were its Worthy Matron or its Worthy Patron.

Behold the harvest time!

A kindly word is like a seed;
It grows into a kindly deed.
So, - blossoms in our garden fair,
Grew from the seeds you planted there,
'Till now they're fair and tall and pure
With roots spread wide to long endure.

Worthy Patron speaks: (To Acting Officers)

Though you cannot sing like angels,
Though you cannot preach like Paul,
You have made this Chapter love you,
So, - what matters, after all?

Present Officers retire to side lines, leaving Acting Officers at stations.

PART II - For Past Matron - Past Patron or Past Officers' Night. The Worthy Matron's welcome to the Acting Officers.

When Past Officers have assumed their stations, the Acting Worthy Matron speaks:

My dear Sisters and Brothers, many emotions engulf me tonight as I assume my station in the East and gaze across my beloved Chapter room, the "Garden of my Heart". In days gone by, this was my rightful place, even as it was also yours. It is because of your favors that Chapter is still privileged to perform its sacred rites because you sowed the seed of constancy and companionship, faith and fidelity, loyalty and loving kindness.

It is with justifiable pride that I look upon my corps of Officers tonight: you, who have labored so arduously to uphold the principles of the Order of the Eastern Star; you, who ever stand ready to shoulder any responsibility, to extend cheer and comfort, to lighten the burdens of your fellowmen. Your years of service have left a glorious imprint upon your countenances; from you radiate beams of happiness and love, a reflection of the light that shines from that Star in the East. Your Worthy Matron and I look upon you truly as our Victory Garden; for from each station, blossoms some tender memory as we recall something good that you have done.

Would not this world be better
If folks we meet would (or could) say,
"I know what good you do
As you go along your way"?

Tonight I think it splendid
That each handclasp, so true,
Can carry our real assurance
That we know *your* goodness too!

Soft music, "In the Garden", as the Worthy Matron takes a basket of flowers and invites the Acting Worthy Matron to walk with her through the garden.

WORTHY MATRON speaks: Dear Sister Acting Worthy Matron,

As I wander through my garden
And enjoy its fragrance rare,
May I beg you walk beside me
That its beauties you may share?

Bows to Acting Worthy Matron; the bow is returned; Worthy Matron offers her arm, and they begin their walk through the garden. Music stops as Worthy Matron speaks at each station. They step before the Chaplain.

WORTHY MATRON speaks: Sister Chaplain,

The purity of your purpose,
The fervor of your prayers
Are like a snowy blossom
Unworn by worldly cares. (Gives Chaplain a white flower.)

They pass to Treasurer and Worthy Matron speaks: Sister Treasurer,

We glean from these golden flowers
A message that all may read,
Of a wise and careful saving
For use in hour of need. (Yellow flower to Treasurer.)

Pass to Organist and Soloist; Worthy Matron speaks:

Sister Organist and Soloist,

The tones of a mighty organ,
The notes of a sweet, sweet song,
And a flower, - all have a sameness,
For all to Heaven belong. (Flower to each.)

Go to Associate Conductress and Worthy Matron speaks:

Sister Associate Conductress,

The paths through my memory garden
Are worn by a leader's feet,

Marking trails amid the posies,
Around the beds so sweet. (Gives flower)

March to the West; Worthy Matron speaks:

Sister Associate Matron, (and Brother Associate Patron if you have one),
(Both rise.)

Toward evening there glows o'er my garden,
The rays of the sun in the West,
Tinting my beautiful treasure
With the colors I love the best. (Flower to both)

Acting Sentinel is seated beside Acting Warder. As Worthy Matron addresses them, both rise; Worthy Matron speaks:

Sister Warder and Sister (or Brother) Sentinel,

Guard well this gateway to Eden,
Where Peace and Harmony dwell,
For virtues will grow and strengthen
If we, but tend them well. (Flower to both; march to
Conductress)

WORTHY MATRON speaks:

Sister Conductress

A garden spot must be well-planned,
Then plans must be fulfilled
That seeds may grow and blossoms bloom
Just as the Master willed. (Flower to Conductress; march
to Secretary.)

Sister Secretary, (Worthy Matron speaks:)

A flower that tells of goodly deeds,
The deeds of your fellowmen,
If rightly reared and tenderly cared,
Will blossom again and again. (Flower to Secretary.)

WORTHY MATRON speaks to Marshal:

Sister Marshal,

Politeness is to do and say
The courteous thing in the courteous way;
And kindness is essential, too,
In all we think and say and do.

Worthy Matron and Acting Worthy Matron pass from Marshal to Adah, thus entering the labyrinth.

WORTHY MATRON speaks:

Sister Adah,

The daughter's lesson, faithful and true,
Is taught to all by your ray of blue.
(Blue flower to Adah; pass to Ruth).

Sister Ruth,

Your widow's mite, like shining gold,
Is a beautiful story and oft retold.
(Yellow flower to Ruth; pass to Esther).

Sister Esther,

The queenly wife in her robes of white,
Reminds us ever to dare to do right.
(White flower to Esther; pass to Martha).

Sister Martha,

A sister's faith and her hope each day
Are exemplified in your bright green ray.
(Green spray to Martha; pass to Electa).

Sister Electa,

Electa's red ray recalls my dear mother,
And her admonition that we love one another.
(Red flower to Electa).

Worthy Matron and Acting Worthy Matron step into line between Adah and Electa; Officers move into circle around altar: the two Conductresses on North and South, others as for initiation.

All hold flowers in right hand, hands clasped in front of body. When chorus of song begins, all raise hands to form a chain of flowers around the circle. As soon as they are in position, soloist sings:

Tune "In The Garden".

as altar
We stand in the Garden of love,
While our Star beams brightly above us;
And we pray that we, ever true may be,
To friends who dearly love us.

Chorus: (Raise hands).

While we walk with them and talk with them,
May we scatter blooms on their way;
And the blossoms rare, flower always there,
To cheer them every day.

Music while all resume stations.

As the Matrons reach the East, the Worthy Matron speaks to the Patrons, presenting each with an emblematic-colored boutonniere, saying,

To you, dear Worthy Patrons,
I offer this little nose-gay,
An emblem of all that we stand for,
And the help you gave on our way.

(This may be omitted if your Chapter does not have a Worthy Patron)

PART III - Honors to Acting Worthy Matron, Acting Worthy Patron, and all Past Officers.

Directions:--At a signal from the Organist, acting officers (Treasurer, Chaplain, Associate Conductress, Electa, and Martha on the North - Marshal, Secretary, Conductress, Adah, and Ruth on the South - Esther and Associate Matron on the West) step to the sidelines - proceed in the usual way along the side lines to the labyrinth, there to form a three-sided rectangle, the fourth side being open to the East. All face East. Each carries a "flower" made by taking the center of a gay colored handkerchief, drawing it down into a slit made in the center of a lace paper doily, then fastening it by a rubber band to the of a short green stick, such as florists use to support potted plants. All sing.

Tune, "In The Garden".

We're happy tonight in our garden,
The garden where loving hearts dwell;
Kindly words and deeds to serve the needs
Of dear ones ever here, we tell.

Chorus

While we walk with them and we talk with them,
May we scatter blooms on their way;
And the blossoms rare, flower always there,
To cheer them every day.

As the chorus begins, the Associate Matron begins with Adah, passes around inside of formation, and collects the "Handkerchief flowers", and steps before the Acting Worthy Matron.

Associate Matron speaks:

Sister (Acting Worthy Matron), right well have you toiled in this garden, the Garden of your Heart; and methinks when the Master looks down from His throne upon your labors, He will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

The bright beams of helpfulness which shine upon the seeds of love you have sown, the loving hands which have tended them, all combine to make your Garden * * * * * (Cabalistic motto). In behalf of your staff of Acting Officers, I beg you to accept our flowers, each one a memento of one more pleasant evening spent with you. (Presents handkerchief flowers). Resumes position in West line.

Acting Associate Matron, carrying a basket of fruit or gift as preferred, approaches Acting Worthy Patron and speaks: (Omit if you have no Patron).

Not alone does a garden signify flowers; it is to us, the staff of life. Because of your earnest labors and untiring interest in us, we would share with you the fruits of this garden.

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet, --
And, ----- (first name), we hope this is, too.

Music while all resume stations.

Determine approximately the number of Past Officers that will be present. Make a "flower" for each one as previously described, but instead of using a handkerchief in the doily, make a center of crepe paper in emblematic colors, concealing in each flower a small gift, such as an O. E. S. souvenir, pencil, memorandum, etc. Make one-fifth of them with blue centers, one-fifth with yellow centers, etc.

After acting Officers have resumed their stations, the Worthy Matron rises and speaks: (To acting Worthy Matron)

Sister, -----, ----- chapter is most happy tonight to honor her Past Officers (or Past Matrons). The faithful service they have given this Chapter has made for each one, a place in the hearts of our members. You have sown the seeds of fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith, and love; you have tended them carefully; and in the light of that beautiful Eastern Star, they have blossomed forth as characters beyond reproach. May I ask that you direct the Conductress (or Marshal) to escort all Past Officers (or Past Matron - Patrons) to the East, facing West?
(Music)

The Garden Of My Heart

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Katharine C. Lowman Company.

When all are in position, present Officers take their stations.

Worthy Matron speaks:

Sisters and Brothers, you will show your appreciation of this splendid group of Past Officers (or Past Matrons - Patrons) by uniting with me in a round of applause.

While they are still in the East, Adah, from her station, rises and speaks:

Like Adah we found you faithful and true
As these beautiful flowers with rays of blue.

(Gives her blue gift flowers to Past Officers, promiscuously; returns to station). (Music)

Ruth speaks:

The seeds of constancy sown by you
Have blossomed forth in this golden hue.

(Gives her yellow gift flowers to them, one here and one there; resumes station). (Music)

Esther speaks:

Wherever there grows a leaf of green,
An Emblem of trustful faith is seen.

(Gives gift flowers to any of the group who has none; returns to station). (Music)

Electa speaks:

No blossoms of red could be more bright
Than the love that we have for you tonight.

(Gives red gift flowers to all others in the group; returns to station). (Music)

As Past Officers are escorted to side lines, all Officers or the soloist may join in singing the chorus of "In The Garden" as previously given.

"In The Garden" may be found in most hymnals.

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